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自序

笔者从教多年,深切感到:阅读理解是学生比较头痛的项目,但又是回避不了的重点考查项。而听力、单项选择的问题设置,乃至完型填空又何尝不是考查学生的理解力呢?然而,对某些学生来说,英语阅读理解就像一块啃不动的骨头,任凭你牙根咬酸了,还是不能吃到嘴里、咽进肚里。此时的你会做何种选择呢?对于意志薄弱的学生来说,结果只有一个——放弃。

然而,又有多少学生是意志坚定的呢?

课时又有限,时间紧,任务重,教师不大可能对每篇文章都做详尽到位的讲解。学生也只能是囫囵吞枣,似懂非懂,困惑越积越多。

这无疑印证了那个古老的寓言——狐狸和葡萄的故事。狐狸跳啊跳的,但无论它如何努力还是够不到高高悬在它上方的香甜的葡萄。它终于悻悻地离开了,恨恨地说:“葡萄是酸的。”

有时,学生就像那只可怜的狐狸。

为什么不做点什么,帮助狐狸吃到葡萄呢?

笔者曾问过学生,为什么不爱做阅读理解呢?学生倒也干脆:“看不懂。”有的学生自我解嘲地对我讲:“老师,我的智力就像一颗子弹,却射在了坦克厚厚的钢板上——无奈啊。”

的确幽默!然而我没有发笑。此话深深地触动了我。

阅读理解文章因为要强调原汁原味,因此多是来自国外的原版书刊,作者也都为英美人士。中国学生既缺乏西方文化背景的支撑、价值观的认同,又受限于自身词汇量和语法分析能力。于是,这些文章便显得晦涩难懂,相当多的学生就只能知难而退了。

做点实际的工作,为学生制造些“穿甲弹”吧。

举目望去,书店里各种有关的复习资料、习题集林林总总、形形色色。其中相当一部分具有习题多、讲解少,原文多、译文少的特点。学

生则依旧困惑。

本书收集了 120 篇英语文章,并配备了笔者精心编译的参考译文。学生做阅读时,遇困惑之处,即使老师不在身旁,也可以突破障碍、感到豁然开朗。一书在手,学生完全可以自学了。

我常常对自己说:

要帮“小狐狸”吃到葡萄!

要帮学生击穿那厚厚的“钢板”!

这就是本书的目的。

宋志武

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Passage 1

Keeping Office Pets

Pet owners are being encouraged to take their animals to work, a move entists say it can be good for productivity, workplace morale(士气), and well-being of animals.

A study found that 25% of Australian women would like to keep an office Sue Chaseling of Petcare Information Service said the practice of keeping ce pets was good both for the people and the pets. “On the pets” side, they not left on their own and “won’t feel lonely and unhappy”, she said. A dy of major US companies showed that 73% found office pets beneficial(有 的), while 27% experienced a drop in absenteeism(缺勤).

Xarni Riggs has two cats walking around her Global Hair Salon in Paddin- 1. “My customers love them. They are their favorites,” she said. “They are troublesome. They know when to go and have a sleep in the sun.”

Little black BJ has spent nearly all his two years “working” at Punch Gal- in Balmain. Owner Iain Powell said he had cats at the gallery for 15 years. often lies in the shop window and people walking past tap on the glass,” said.

Ms Chaseling said cats were popular in service industries because they en- d a point of conversation. But she said owners had to make sure both their workers and the cats were comfortable.

1. The percentage of American companies that are in favor of keeping office pets is _____.

- A. 73% B. 27% C. 25% D. 15%

2. We know from the text that “BJ” _____.

- A. works in the Global Hair Salon B. often greets the passers-by
C. likes to sleep in the sun D. is a two-year-old cat

Passage 2

Influenza

Influenza(流行性感冒) has been with us a long, long time. According to some Greek writers on medical history, the outbreak of 412 BC was of influenza. The same has been suggested of the sickness that swept through the Greek army attacking Syracuse in 395 BC. Flu is a disease that moves most quickly among people living in crowded condition, hence it is likely to attack armies.

In April 1918, flu broke out among American troops stationed in France. It quickly spread through all the armies but caused relatively few deaths. Four months later, however, a second outbreak started which proved to be a killer. It killed not only the old and already sick but also healthy young adults. It went through every country in the world, only a few distant islands in the South Atlantic and the Pacific remaining untouched. Before the great outbreak ended, it killed at least 15 million people.

Medical science is still not certain what hit us in 1918. The virus of influenza was not found until 1933, so all that today can be said about the 1918 outbreak is the kind of antibodies it produced.

The first big advance was also made in 1933, then a team of British doctors found the type A influenza virus. In 1940, a doctor of the United States found type B. Later type C was found, along with many subgroups (groups) of type A and B. Vaccines (疫苗) were prepared and used widely by the armies during the Second World War to prevent outbreaks.

The flu virus proved trickier(欺骗) than most. A vaccine good against one type gave a protection against another. Indeed type A virus changes its na-

ture so quickly that a perfectly good vaccine may lose its value because of the change. This increases the need for the speedy discovery of flu outbreaks, so that stocks(家畜) of the right vaccine can be prepared quickly after an outbreak. Starting such a warning system was the first things done by the World Health Organization.

1. Why is influenza easy to attack armies?

A. Because it moves very quickly.

B. Because it spread through Greek army long ago.

C. Because it spread through the crowded most quickly.

D. Because an army moves more often.

2. How many types of influenza have been found excluding(排除) subgroup?

A. One type.

B. Two types.

C. Three types.

D. Four types.